

REMARKS

Claims 4 and 21-22 are amended; and claim 23 is canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 4-8, 13, 15, and 20-22 are pending.

The amendments to the specification, drawings, and claims are based on the application as originally filed, so it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

In the office action, claim 23 was deemed withdrawn. Claim 23 is canceled.

In addition, it is stated that since claims 4-8 and 20 depend from withdrawn claim 23, claims 4-8 and 20 are similarly withdrawn.

The applicant amends claim 4 to depend from claim 22, and claims 5-8 and 20 depend from claim 4, and therefore also depend from claim 22. Since claim 22 is pending and not withdrawn, the applicant traverses the withdrawal of claims 4-8 and 20, as being dependent from claim 22. Accordingly, reconsideration and reversal of the withdrawal of claims 4-8 and 20 are respectfully requested.

In the office action, the preamble of claim 22 was objected to. Claim 22 is amended to clarify the preamble and the recited elements of the body of claim 22, so reconsideration of claim 22 in relation to the preamble thereof is respectfully requested.

In the office action, the drawings and specification were objected to, and the examiner required insertion of reference numerals corresponding to recited elements in the claims. The specification, drawings, and claims are amended accordingly, so reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings and specification are respectfully requested.

In the office action, claim 22 was objected to, and claims 2, 13, 15, and 21-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 22 is amended to overcome the objection and rejections. Regarding the recitation of the surfaces in relation to the corrugations, it is respectfully submitted that corrugations, as is commonly known and understood to one having ordinary skill in the art, are elements which always extend from a surface or plane of another element. Such corrugations include side walls and a bottom portion, which in the present application is described as a first wall. In the present invention, the bottom portion or "first wall" is parallel to and spaced from the surface of the other element, such as the planar portion of the first and second members, such as members 32, 33. Accordingly, as shown in the figures, the bottom portion of the corrugations contains the elongated opening, with the side walls of the corrugation extending generally parallel to the sides of the element, such as the members 32, 33, and extending in the present invention from the bottom of the corrugation to the surface or plane of the members 32, 33 in an angle of about 45°. Such characteristics of the corrugations of the present invention are shown in the drawings and described in the specification as originally filed.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of claim 22 and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph are respectfully requested.

In the office action, claims 2, 13, 15, and 22 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,435,107 to Seibold; and claim 21 was finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Seibold.

Independent claim 22 is amended to recite that the present invention provides an arrangement of toothing on the side walls of the corrugations, whereby the toothing is arranged on these side walls, extending generally parallel to the elongated opening as well as extending parallel to the sides of the elements or members, such as the first and second members, provided with the corrugations.

Accordingly, claim 22, as amended, is patentable over Seibold, since Seibold fails to show a connecting element having at least one corrugation formed in at least one of first and second members, whereby the corrugation includes a first wall, as a bottom portion, and side walls as explained herein. Furthermore, Seibold fails to show or to suggest any such corrugation or toothing of side walls of any corrugation.

Therefore, pending claims 2, 4-8, 13, 15, and 20-22 are in condition for allowance, so reconsideration and withdrawal of the final rejection are respectfully requested.

Entry and approval of the present response and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

In case of any deficiencies in fees by the filing of the present amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiencies in fees to Deposit Account Number 01-0035.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 3, 2008

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